

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AN EVENT BASED, SELECTABLE USE OF  
COLOR IN A USER INTERFACE DISPLAY

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A method and apparatus of signaling a user of a computer system that a particular event has occurred. The present invention performs this task by using a color table, which contains a list of event types and a corresponding list of display attributes. The application program signals the user that an event has occurred by displaying an event object. The application program obtains the correct display attribute for the event object by calling the color table, giving it 10 the event type. The color table is indexed by the event type and a screen capability flag that is obtained from the operating system. The color table provides the display attribute for the specified event type based on the screen capability flag. The application program does not need to know the computer's display capability or the color conventions of the country the device will be sold 15 in. Furthermore, the application program needs only one piece of computer code, regardless of the number of countries the device will be sold in or the number of display capabilities which are possible. Thus, memory space in the palmtop is conserved. In another embodiment of the present invention, the application program is allowed to modify the default values of the display 20 attributes in the color table. Thus, an application program could use its own color to display an event object if the default color is undesirable.